

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 17 are amended and claims 10, 20 and 23-55 are cancelled.  
Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 remain in the application.

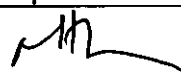
In view of timely submission of this response within the one month statutory time limit set by the USPTO and the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed on February 20, 2004, Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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